

# **2 FAM 060**

## **FOREIGN DISASTER EMERGENCY RELIEF**

*(TL:GEN-219; 09-20-1984)*

### **2 FAM 061 GENERAL POLICY**

*(TL:GEN-219; 09-20-1984)*

*(Uniform State/AID)*

In the event of foreign disaster the United States may provide emergency relief assistance as a humanitarian service consistent with U.S foreign policy goals. Assistance shall to the greatest extent possible reach those most in need of relief and rehabilitation. U.S. assistance supports and encourages host country participation in disaster preparedness activities and supplements rather than replaces host country disaster relief resources.

#### **2 FAM 061.1 Foreign Disaster**

*(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)*

*(Uniform State/AID)*

A foreign disaster is an act of nature (such as a flood, drought, wild-fire, hurricane, earthquake, volcanic eruption, or epidemic) or an act of man (such as a riot, violence, civil strife, explosion-fire) which is or threatens to be of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant U.S. emergency relief assistance outside of the United States and its Trust Territories. The severity and magnitude of a foreign disaster is determined by taking into account the extent of damage compared to indigenous resources available for alleviating the suffering caused, and the extent of social or economic disruption. The U.S. Government, through the Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (AID/OFDA, see Sec. 2 FAM 066.2 ), can provide technical specialists to support interested governments faced with emergency situations which do not warrant a formal disaster determination. Often these services are provided on a reimbursable basis to governments or the private sector, through the U.S. Embassy in the affected country.

#### **2 FAM 061.2 Disaster Assistance**

*(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)*

*(Uniform State/AID)*

Disaster assistance includes:

- (1) The analysis and study of the causes of disasters for the purpose of planning, in advance, the type of U.S. assistance that may be needed when disaster occurs;

(2) Disaster preparedness or mitigation activities such as training foreign nationals in disaster management, vulnerability and risk analysis, public awareness, and damage assessment; promoting bilateral, regional, and international information exchange; conducting disaster-related research and applying technology (e.g., satellite early warning, tracking, and monitoring systems); and

(3) Developing operational disaster plans and rendering emergency relief (in coordination with other governments, their embassies, international agencies, U.S. voluntary agencies, and U.S. and foreign private assistance) to victims of natural and manmade disasters.

## **2 FAM 061.3 Emergency Relief**

*(TL:GEN-219; 09-20-1984)*

*(Uniform State/AID)*

a. Emergency relief is aid which can be used immediately to alleviate the suffering of victims. Normally, it includes services and commodities as well as the rescue and evacuation of victims; the provision and transportation of food, clothing, medicines, beds, and bedding, temporary shelter, the furnishing of medical equipment, medical and technical personnel; and making repairs to essential services.

b. Emergency relief may be made available normally during an initial 60-day period following sudden onset of disaster (earthquake, cyclone, tsunami, etc.). During this emergency phase, the chief of mission may commit up to \$25,000. Commitments in excess of the initial \$25,000, and/or extension of the emergency phase beyond 60 days require prior approval of AID/W's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (AID/OFDA).

c. Short-term rehabilitation assistance is limited to help required to restore self-sufficiency to disaster victims. Such assistance is subject to AID/W approval and is normally limited to an additional 90 days beyond emergency relief phase. Assistance required for long-term rehabilitation or full recovery (such as reconstruction) is subject to normal AID programming procedures, and is eligible for funding from the International Disaster Assistance Account, only when so authorized by Congress.

## **2 FAM 061.4 Disaster Preparedness**

*(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)*  
*(Uniform State/AID)*

a. AID/OFDA maintains inventories of commonly required disaster relief commodities in one U.S. and four regional stockpiles from which they maybe deployed rapidly to a scene of disaster only upon instruction from AID/OFDA. Commodities are located in:

- (1) New Windsor, Md.;
- (2) (Leghorn) Italy;
- (3) Panama;
- (4) Guam; and
- (5) Singapore.

b. Disaster preparedness includes:

(1) Seminars and training for foreign disaster officials in disaster management;

(2) Direct technical assistance in national disaster planning for disaster-prone countries;

(3) Assistance to U.S. missions in the development of mission disaster plans;and

(4) Disaster-related technical assistance and technology transfer.

These services in all aspects of emergency management are available to all countries and can be provided on a cost-sharing or reimbursable basis.

## **2 FAM 061.5 Authorities**

*(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)*  
*(Uniform State/AID)*

a. Department of State Delegation of Authority No. 104 of November 3, 1961, delegated to the Administrator, Agency for International Development, provides authority for funding and operational coordination of emergency disaster operations and disaster preparedness. This authority is derived from the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2292), (FAA) and from the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended (Pub. L. 480, 83rd Congress; (7 U.S.C. 1704, 1721).

b. FAA Section 106: This section authorizes the President to furnish assistance to programs of reconstruction following natural and man-made disasters.

c. FAA Sections 491-493: These sections provide the basic authorities and guidelines for the Agency's involvement in disaster relief, rehabilitation, preparedness, prediction, and contingency planning. Section 493 authorizes the President to appoint a Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance.

## **2 FAM 062 CHIEF OF MISSION RESPONSIBILITIES**

*(TL:GEN-219; 09-20-1984)*

*(Uniform State/AID)*

Responsibilities of the Chief of Mission are delineated in AID Handbook 8. (See Sec. 2 FAM 065 .)

## **2 FAM 063 OBLIGATION OF FUNDS AND FISCAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

*(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)*

*(Uniform State/AID)*

a. To utilize the authority to obligate the \$25,000 initial relief assistance, AID/W has established an allotment account known as the "International Disaster Assistance Account." The USAID (or in countries where there is no AID mission, the chief of the diplomatic mission), or AID's Foreign Disaster Assistance Director is authorized to issue obligations against this allotment account up to \$50,000.

b. Should larger amounts of funds be necessary, recommendations should be made through channels and appropriate action will be taken in Washington to establish appropriate funding levels. OFDA may obligate, subject to availability of funds verified by the Program Accounting Division, Office of Financial Management (M/FM/PAD), an amount which does not exceed \$3,000,000. Greater amounts require the approval of the AID Administrator.

c. Chiefs of missions shall make no commitments of assistance in excess of the \$25,000 authority until additional funding levels have been approved by AID/W and missions notified of the appropriation, budget plan code, and control numbers.

d. Copies of the obligation documents issued by the diplomatic missions, the USAID, or by AID/W will be dispatched immediately to M/FM/PAD,AID/W.

## **2 FAM 064 REPORTING**

(TL:GEN-219; 09-20-1984)  
(Uniform State/AID)

Without delaying necessary and authorized emergency action, an immediate notification of a disaster, situation reports, follow-through actions, and a full summary report of each disaster relief operation is to be communicated to AID/OFDA. Guidelines for these reports are contained in Chapter 3 and Appendix F of AID Handbook 8 (See Sec. 2 FAM 065 ).

## **2 FAM 065 FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK**

(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)  
(Uniform State/AID)

For detailed information and guidelines on U.S. Government foreign disaster policies, disaster preparedness activities, disaster operations, funding, reporting, surveys and assessments, procurement, stockpiling, health and technical assistance, see *AID's Foreign Disaster Assistance Handbook* (AID Handbook 8) subject handbook. Copies of the handbook have been distributed to all diplomatic and AID missions.

## **2 FAM 066 RESPONSIBILITIES AT WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS**

### **2 FAM 066.1 General Responsibilities**

(TL:GEN-219; 09-20-1984)  
(Uniform State/AID)

The Department of State provides foreign policy guidance to AID in carrying out disaster relief activities. The Administrator of AID determines the extent to which AID funds and resources will be committed under this policy guidance.

## **2 FAM 066.2 Agency for International Development (AID)**

*(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)*

*(Uniform State/AID)*

a. The focal point of the U.S. Government disaster relief activity in Washington is the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (an independent office reporting directly to the Administrator of AID), Foreign Disaster Coordination Center. A disaster duty officer is on-call 24-hours a day including weekends and holidays. The OFDA Director is authorized by the AID Administrator to respond to U.S. mission requests for disaster assistance, to organize and coordinate the total U.S. Government disaster relief response, to procure supplies, services, and transportation, and to engage in disaster preparedness activities. AID reimburses other Federal departments and agencies for supplies and costs associated with personnel provided at AID's request.

b. AID geographic bureaus work with OFDA in determining the nature and extent of disasters to determine suitable plans of action. They provide additional temporary professional and clerical staff when the magnitude of a disaster requires augmentation of OFDA staff. When the emergency and short-term rehabilitation phases of a disaster evolve into reconstruction, the responsibility for disaster reconstruction passes from OFDA to the appropriate geographic bureau of AID.

c. The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) is responsible for all matters relating to Pub. L. 480 food commodities utilized in emergency relief. (See AID Handbook 9: Food for Peace (Pub. L. 480, Titles I, II, and III)). FFP keeps OFDA informed of related mission and AID/W actions.

d. There are many other offices within AID which provide important services, resources, or administrative assistance in the disaster program. These are delineated in AID Handbook 8, Chapter 1.

## **2 FAM 066.3 Department of State**

*(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)*

*(Uniform State/AID)*

a. AID/OFDA receives foreign policy guidance from the Department of State through the appropriate regional bureau and office director. Other components of the Department often participate with OFDA in foreign disaster operations.

b. The Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) is concerned with disasters in foreign countries as they affect U.S. citizens. It provides information on the welfare of private U.S. citizens residing abroad who are affected by disasters.

to concerned relatives in the United States. The Bureau assists in the transfer of emergency funds to U.S. citizens in disaster stricken areas and in arranging for the medical treatment and/or evacuation. In the case of death of a U.S. citizen abroad, the Bureau assists the next of kin in arranging for the disposition of the remains and settlement of the estate;

c. The Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO) provides guidance to State/AID regional bureaus and to OFDA in communicating with the United Nations and its specialized agencies or other international organizations when U.S. Government disaster assistance involves these organizations;

d. The Bureau of Refugee Programs (RP) has responsibility for coordinating assistance to refugees who cross the border from one country to another. AID/OFDA has the responsibility for assisting people displaced within their own country as a result of natural or manmade disasters. A single disaster may involve both situations, and interaction between OFDA and RP is essential to a balanced U.S. effort; and

e. The State Operations Center (S/S-O) relays to OFDA or the OFDA Disaster Duty Officer communications received pertaining to foreign disasters and assists OFDA during evening hours and on weekends in the dispatch of immediate communications.

## **2 FAM 066.4 Department of Defense (DOD)**

*(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)*  
*(Uniform State/AID)*

Department of Defense Directive 5100.46, of December 4, 1975, authorizes the designation of a Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator in the Department of Defense. The DOD Coordinator responds to OFDA requests for assistance by providing and coordinating available U.S. military resources (equipment, supplies, transportation, personnel) necessary for rescue and relief operations. The Department of Defense Directive 5100.46 on its foreign disaster policy is contained in AID Handbook 8 as Appendix B.

## **2 FAM 066.5 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

*(TL:GEN-219; 09-20-1984)*  
*(Uniform State/AID)*

HHS's Office of International Health makes its Foreign Disaster Relief Liaison Officer regularly available to OFDA to provide guidance on health problems of actual or potential victims of foreign disasters. At AID's request, the Centers for Disease Control at Atlanta, Georgia, and the Public Health Service provide medical personnel, equipment, and supplies.

## **2 FAM 066.6 Other Federal Departments**

*(TL:GEN-219; 09-20-1984)*  
*(Uniform State/AID)*

Other Federal departments which are frequently involved in foreign disaster assistance include, but are not limited to, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Interior, the Executive Office of the President, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## **2 FAM 066.7 U.S Voluntary Agencies and the American National Red Cross**

*(TL:GEN-270; 04-01-1991)*  
*(Uniform State/AID)*

a. U.S. voluntary agencies registered with AID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, having educational, social, and health programs in less-developed countries, are eligible to receive grants of Pub. L. 480, Title II food in furtherance of such programs. AID may authorize voluntary agencies to utilize these stocks of Title II commodities for emergency relief under procedures specified in AID Handbook 9—Food For Peace (Pub. L. 480, Title I, II, III).

b. Voluntary agencies often initiate their own disaster assistance programs in cooperation with the host governments. AID may assist these activities by making special grants of Pub. L. 480 food in addition to stocks on hand in the country, under procedures set forth in the aforementioned Handbook.

c. AID may make cash grants to voluntary agencies and to the American National Red Cross for foreign disaster assistance purposes. Decisions on grant assistance are made on a case-by-case basis and depend on the structure and capabilities of the agencies to launch and carry out anticipated projects.



## **2 FAM 066.8 International Community**

*(TL:GEN-219; 09-20-1984)*

*(Uniform State/AID)*

a. The term "international community" includes donor countries and international organizations which participate in disaster relief and preparedness activities, such as the United Nations, World Food Program, League of Red Cross Societies, Internal Committee of the Red Cross, Organization of American States, Pan American Health Organization, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

b. The U.S. Government encourages and participates with the international community in a multilateral approach to disaster preparedness and relief.

c. The U.S. Government, through AID, may, at its discretion, make contributions to internationally recognized organizations that are capable and willing to undertake a comprehensive disaster assistance program, if acceptable to the cooperating country. These contributions may be in the form of supplies, services, transportation, or cash grants, the extent of which is based on actual requirements and the contributions of other donor countries.

d. Contributions made to international organizations do not necessarily preclude the U.S. Government relief efforts for the same disaster on a bilateral basis or through U.S. voluntary agencies as long as such efforts are not duplicative.

## **2 FAM 067 THROUGH 069 UNASSIGNED**